

Rwandan peace talks adjourned after deadlock

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DAR ES SALAAM, Oct 30 (AFP) - Peace talks between the Rwandan government and rebel Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) were adjourned for two weeks late Thursday after both sides failed to agree on how to share out seats in a proposed all-party transitional parliament, sources said.

Both sides were however expected to sign a document expressing mutual understanding on the modalities of power-sharing to be called "power-sharing protocol 1" on Friday, said Ami Mpungwe, a spokesman for the Tanzanian Foreign Ministry.

Tanzania has been chairing the talks held at the northern town of Arusha.

Mpungwe said representatives from both sides would take a two-weeks break after signing the protocol during which they would hold consultations with their respective senior officials on the remaining issues. Negotiations would resume mid-November.

The November round of talks is to tackle outstanding issues on power-sharing before moving on to the equally thorny question of the repatriation of refugees and integration of RPF forces into the national army.

The power-sharing protocol 1 document contains agreements on the reduced powers of the president during a transitional administration, a proviso for an executive cabinet to be headed by a prime minister and an independent judiciary.

It leaves incumbent President Juvenal Habyarimana virtually a ceremonial head of state.

The decision to have a recess on the discussions was received with relief by both negotiators and observers after almost four-weeks of intense and tough deliberations.

The RPF invaded Rwanda from Uganda in 1990 in an attempt to topple the 18-year-old government of Habyarimana, plunging the tiny central African country into nearly two years of bloody civil war that left

hundreds dead and tens of thousands July is said to be holding.
others displaced. hb/jnm/ns
A ceasefire agreement reached in AFP AFP SEQN-0072